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10/691,308

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Richard D. Dettinger

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IBM CORPORATION, INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW  
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EXAMINER

PHAM, KHANH B

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**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/691,308	<b>Applicant(s)</b> DETTINGER ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Khanh B. Pham	<b>Art Unit</b> 2166	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 April 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4,6,7,9-11,14-16 and 28-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4,6,7,9-11,14-16 and 28-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)          | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)          | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 4/21/2008 has been entered. Claims 1, 6, 11, and 28 have been amended. Claims 1-4, 6-7, 9-11, 14-16, 28-30 are pending.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. **Claims 1-4, 6-7, 9-11, 14-16, 28-30** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goiffon et al. (US 6,453,312 B1), and in view of Ryan et al. (US 6,421,675 B1).

**As per claim 1**, Goiffon teaches a method for context-sensitive searching of fields of a data repository using multiple levels of term expansion comprising:

- “receiving, from a user, a query containing at least one condition for searching at least one field of data repository, wherein the at least one condition includes at least one base search term” at Col. 14 lines 44-65 and Figs. 4-8;
- “obtaining one or more parameters associated with the base search term, wherein the one or more parameters associated with the base search term comprise a user-specified level of expansion” at Col. 14 lines 44-65 and Figs. 4-8;
- “obtaining, based at least in part on the user-specified level of expansion and the credential associated with the user and the role associated with the user, one or more expanded search terms” at Col. 15 lines 3-20;
- “prior to executing the query, modifying the query to contain one or more conditions based on the one or more expanded search terms” at Col. 17 lines 5-30.

Goiffon does not explicitly teach one or more parameter comprises “a credential associated with the user and a role associated with the user” nor obtaining, based at least in part on “the credential associated with the user and the role associated with the user” as claimed. However, Ryan teaches a method for obtaining a list of suggested keywords based on a user's query, wherein the user's query includes “a credential associated with the user and a role associated with the user” at Col. 5 lines 10-35 and Col. 14 lines 15-45. Ryan also teaches the step of obtaining, based at least in part, on “the credential associated with the user and the role associated with the user, one or more expanded search terms” at Col. 29 lines 10-60. Thus, it would have been obvious

Art Unit: 2166

to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine Ryan with Goiffon's teaching by providing expanded search terms based on user's credential and roles so that only keywords which are useful for a particular user's group are suggested to the user.

**As per claim 2**, Goiffon and Ryan teach the method of claim 1 discussed above. Ryan also teaches wherein "the one or more parameters associated with the base search term comprise a name of the at least one field" at Col. 14 lines 1-45.

**As per claim 3**, Goiffon and Ryan teach the method of claim 1 discussed above. Ryan also teaches: wherein "the one or more parameters associated with the base search term comprise a name of a table containing the at least one field" at Col. 14 lines 1-45.

**As per claim 4**, Goiffon and Ryan teach the method of claim 1 discussed above. Goiffon also teaches: wherein "different one or more expanded search terms are obtained for the at least one base search term depending on the name of the at least one field" at Col. 14 lines 1-45 and Col. 29 lines 40-55.

**As per claim 6**, Goiffon teaches a method for searching fields of a data repository using multiple levels of term expansion, comprising:

Art Unit: 2166

- "receiving, from a user, a query containing at least one condition for searching at least one field of the data repository, wherein the at least one condition includes at least one base search term" at Col. 14 lines 44-65 and Figs. 4-8;
- "providing an interface allowing a user to specify a level of expansion associated with the base search term" at Figs. 4-8;
- "obtaining the level of expansion associated with the base search term" at Col. 16 lines 47-50 and Figs. 4-8;
- "obtaining, based on the base search term, the associated level of expansion, one or more expanded search terms" at Col. 15 lines 3-22; and
- "prior to executing the query, modifying the query to contain one or more conditions including the one or more expanded search terms" at Col. 17 lines 5-30.

Goiffon does not explicitly teach "determining one or more parameter specifying at least credential associated with the user and a role associated with the user" nor "obtaining, based on the one or more parameter, one or more expanded search terms" as claimed. However, Ryan teaches a method for obtaining a list of suggested keywords based on a user's query, wherein the user's query includes "a credential associated with the user and a role associated with the user" at Col. 5 lines 10-35 and Col. 14 lines 15-45. Ryan also teaches the step of obtaining, based at least in part, on "the credential associated with the user and the role associated with the user, one or more expanded search terms" at Col. 29 lines 10-60. Thus, it would have been obvious

Art Unit: 2166

to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine Ryan with Goiffon's teaching by providing expanded search terms based on user's credential and roles so that only keywords which are useful for a particular user's group are suggested to the user.

**As per claim 7**, Goiffon and Ryan teach the method of claim 6 discussed above. Goiffon also teaches: wherein "the base search term corresponds to an instance data value of the at least one field" at Figs. 3-8.

**As per claim 9**, Goiffon and Ryan teach the method of claim 6 discussed above. Goiffon also teaches: wherein "obtaining one or more expanded search terms comprises selecting a set of expanded search terms from a plurality of sets of expanded search terms, each set corresponding to a different level of expansion" at Col. 17 lines 5-30 and Figs. 3-8.

**As per claim 10**, Goiffon and Ryan teach the method of claim 9 discussed above. Goiffon also teaches: wherein "the number of expanded search terms in each set is dependent on the corresponding level of expansion" at Col. 17 lines 5-30 and Figs. 3-8.

**As per claim 11**, Goiffon teaches a method for context-sensitive searching of fields of a data repository, comprising:

Art Unit: 2166

- "receiving, from a user, a query containing at least one condition for searching at least one field of the data repository, wherein the at least one condition includes at least one base search term" Col. 14 lines 44-65 and Figs. 4-8;
- "prior to executing the query, modifying the query to contain one or more conditions based on one or more expanded search terms" at Col. 17 lines 5-30;
- "wherein the one or more parameters associated with the base search term further comprises at least a name of the at least one field and different one or more expanded search term are obtained for the at least one base search term depending on the name of the at least one field" at Col. 14 lines 44-65 and Figs. 3-8.

Goiffon does not explicitly teach "determining one or more parameter specifying at least credential associated with the user and a role associated with the user" nor "obtaining, based on the one or more parameter, one or more expanded search terms" as claimed. However, Ryan teaches a method for obtaining a list of suggested keywords based on a user's query, wherein the user's query includes "a credential associated with the user and a role associated with the user" at Col. 5 lines 10-35 and Col. 14 lines 15-45. Ryan also teaches the step of obtaining, based at least in part, on "the credential associated with the user and the role associated with the user, one or more expanded search terms" at Col. 29 lines 10-60. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine Ryan with Goiffon's teaching by providing expanded search terms based on user's credential



Art Unit: 2166

and roles so that only keywords which are useful for a particular user's group are suggested to the user.

**As per claim 14**, Goiffon and Ryan teach the method of claim 11 discussed above. Goiffon also teaches: wherein "the one or more parameters associated with the base search term comprise a name of a table containing the at least one field" at Figs. 3-8.

**As per claim 15**, Goiffon and Ryan teach the method of claim 11 discussed above. Goiffon also teaches: wherein "the one or more parameters associated with the base search term comprise a level of expansion" at Col. 14 lines 44-65 and Figs. 4-8

**As per claim 16**, Goiffon and Ryan teach the method of claim 15 discussed above. Goiffon also teaches: wherein "the level of expansion is dependent on one or more other ones of the one or more parameters" at Col. 14 lines 44-65 and Figs. 4-8.

**As per claim 28**, Goiffon teaches a method of searching fields of a data repository using dynamic term expansion, comprising:

- "obtaining a query containing at least one condition for searching at least one field of the data repository, wherein the at least one condition includes at least one base search term" Col. 14 lines 44-65 and Figs. 4-8;

Art Unit: 2166

- "identifying, based on the base search term and one or more parameters, a set of expanded terms associated with the base search term" at Col. 15 lines 3-20;
- "generating a pointer to the identified set of expanded search terms" at Col. 7 lines 39-55, Col. 8 lines 35-45 and Col. 10 lines 23-33;
- "and prior to executing the query, modifying the query to contain one or more conditions based on one or more expanded search terms retrieved using the pointer" at Col. 15 lines 3-23.

Goiffon does not explicitly teach "determining one or more parameter specifying at least credential associated with the user and a role associated with the user" nor "identifying, based on the one or more parameter, one or more expanded search terms" as claimed. However, Ryan teaches a method for obtaining a list of suggested keywords based on a user's query, wherein the user's query includes "a credential associated with the user and a role associated with the user" at Col. 5 lines 10-35 and Col. 14 lines 15-45. Ryan also teaches the step of obtaining, based at least in part, on "the credential associated with the user and the role associated with the user, one or more expanded search terms" at Col. 29 lines 10-60. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine Ryan with Goiffon's teaching by providing expanded search terms based on user's credential and roles so that only keywords which are useful for a particular user's group are suggested to the user.

**As per claim 29**, Goiffon and Ryan teach the method of claim 28 discussed above. Goiffon also teaches: "modifying the identified set of expanded search terms after generating the pointer" at Col. 10 lines 23-36.

**As per claim 30**, Goiffon and Ryan teaches the method of claim 28 discussed above. Goiffon also teaches: wherein "the pointer comprises a directory path to a database" at Col. 10 lines 23-25 and Fig. 1.

### ***Response to Arguments***

4. Applicant's arguments filed 4/21/2008 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### ***Conclusion***

Examiner's Note: Examiner has cited particular columns and line numbers in the references applied to the claims above for the convenience of the applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings of the art and are applied to specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. It is respectfully requested from the applicant in preparing responses, to fully consider the references in entirety as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the Examiner.

Art Unit: 2166

In the case of amending the Claimed invention, Applicant is respectfully requested to indicate the portion(s) of the specification which dictate(s) the structure relied on for proper interpretation and also to verify and ascertain the metes and bounds of the claimed invention.

The prior art made of record, listed on form PTO-892, and not relied upon, if any, is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

If a reference indicated as being mailed on PTO-FORM 892 has not been enclosed in this action, please contact Lisa Craney whose telephone number is **(571) 272-3574** for faster service.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Khanh B. Pham whose telephone number is (571) 272-4116. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 7:30am to 4:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hosain Alam can be reached on (571) 272-3978. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2166

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Khanh B. Pham/  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2166

August 22, 2008